

**Washington State
Information Network for
Public Health Officials**

**National Network of Libraries of Medicine
Pacific Northwest Region
University of Washington
Seattle, WA**

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Vision

Provide Public Health Officials access to timely, relevant, accurate, and authoritative health information, and provide a way to share information throughout the public health system using state-of-the-art communications networks.

Objectives

- Access to public health information systems
- Immediate information dissemination to Public Health Officials
- Providing a single network solution for Local Health
- E-mail services for all Local Health staff
- Internet and World Wide Web access
- Development of shared statewide infrastructure

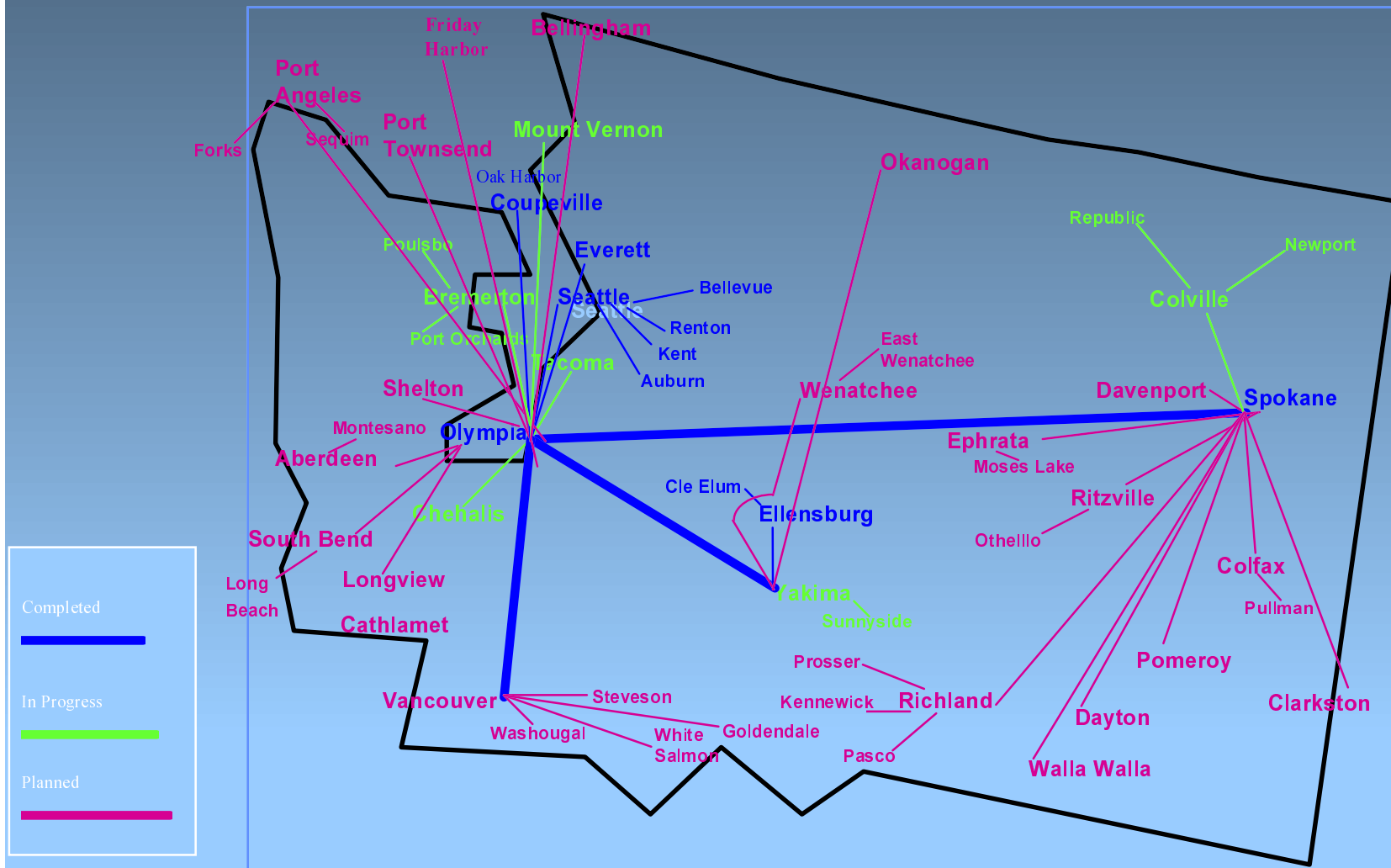
Partners

- State Department of Health
- Local health jurisdictions
- University of Washington
- Centers for Disease Control
- State Department of Information Services

Creation of a shared governmental infrastructure

- Working with other county and state agencies
 - Department of Information Services
 - Office of the Administrator for the Courts
 - Department of Social and Health Services
 - Justice Information Network
- Sharing the long-term cost as a state resource

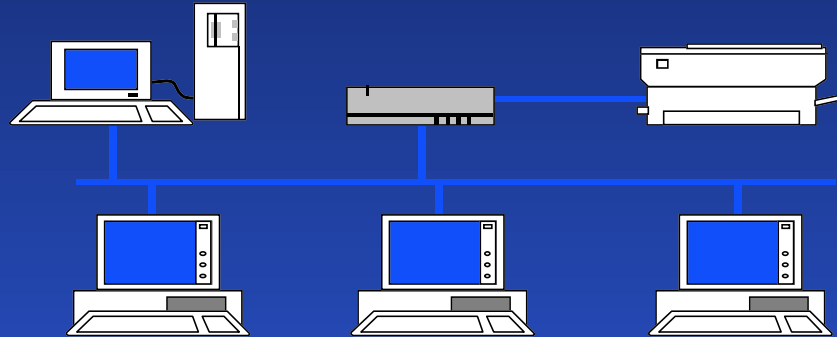
Washington Local Health Districts



Security

- Focus on authenticating people
- Electronic signature
- Network independence
- Standards

Network technology



- Local area networks
- Frame relay wide area network
- T-1 line (1.54 million bits per second)
- Cisco routers
- TCP/IP protocol
- SMTP mail protocol

University of Washington collaboration

- Training and support of local health dept. staff
- Development of Washington State Public Health Web site

E-mail and MEDLINE

- E-mail
- Electronic discussion lists for broadcast but restricted communication
- Literature searching availability

Web site development

- Bring together state, local, and Internet-wide resources
- Public communication
- Data and document retrieval

Go to INPHO Home Page...

Support and training

■ User support

- “Help desk”

- E-mail, account, and UW system questions

■ Training

- Provided by Regional Medical Library staff

- Sessions at local health depts.

- Sessions at state-wide meetings

Training issues

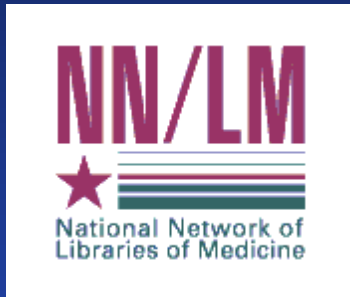
- Many levels of computer skills
 - Most fairly novice
 - Variable ease using mouse & Windows
- Information literacy
 - Variable familiarity with online access
 - Distinction between data sources

Training issues, cont.

- Relevancy of web resources
 - Teach utility not just functionality
- Segmented training
 - Interest area: EH and Nursing staff, e.g.
 - Skill level: novice, intermediate

Next phase

- Ad hoc training has been an interim measure
- Future approach
 - Subject experts
 - DOH and SPHCM
 - Core Functions Education & Training Info.
 - Information management component
 - Public Health informatics



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